

rights NGOs for the purpose of incorporating the International Bill of Rights into a "Taiwan Bill of Rights." Furthermore, the "National Human Rights Report" will soon be published—another first for Taiwan—and work is in progress for a National Human Rights Memorial Museum responsible for social education and raising public awareness.

My friends, although our journey has not been easy, Taiwan has not stood alone. Support from the international community, particularly the United States, has played a critical role. I will never forget the watershed event—the Kaohsiung Incident—in Taiwan's democratization process. On December 10, 1979, a group of Taiwan citizens defiantly held a rally to commemorate International Human Rights Day. Because such activity was forbidden by the ruling regime of the time, rally leaders were charged with illegal assembly and conspiracy for sedition.

As a defense attorney in the Kaohsiung Incident, I personally witnessed the efforts of ILHR, who sent Professor John Kaplan to Taiwan to observe the trial at the military tribunal. The rest of the international human rights community also rendered assistance—and inspiration—to Taiwan's democratic movement.

My wife and I were both victims of human rights violation. I was sentenced to prison for fighting for freedom of speech. My wife was seriously injured in what is believed to be a politically motivated accident and must spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair. However, like the brave sacrifices made by Taiwan's pioneers of democracy, our suffering only serves to strengthen the determination of the Taiwanese people in their pursuit of political and personal freedoms.

Today, there are no more black lists, no more political prisoners, no more religious persecution. Citizens in Taiwan now enjoy full civil rights—freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of press and other categories of rights. Despite our exclusion from the United Nations, Taiwan has never slowed its pace to push for human rights reform.

At a time when the international community is caught up in debates on "clashes of civilization" with regard to human rights protection, Taiwan's experience is proof that human rights are a universal value and humanity's common asset. All countries and individuals should have access to these universal rights; none should be subjected to a double-standard. As stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the government of the United States of America for its efforts to help promote human rights in Taiwan. Section II(C) of the "Taiwan Relations Act", which was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1979, stipulates that "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan are hereby reaffirmed as objective of the United States." We appreciate, and are always mindful of the concern and support a more established democracy has given to a fledgling one.

Taiwan's achievement in human rights and democracy so far would not have been possible were it not for the generosity of those of the international community who have stood behind us. Likewise, we would not be able to receive the affirmation and commendation of the ILHR and other international human rights organizations.

Of course, a sound and solid institutionalized system is requisite for the effective pro-

tection of human rights. Taiwan has now established a fair electoral environment with an increasingly vigorous civil society. However, much remain to be further strengthened in terms of consolidating and deepening our democracy and human rights. Whether we succeed or not would rely on the collective and continuing efforts of the people, particularly on whether we can consolidate our democracy by rectifying the inadequacies in our constitutional framework.

More than two centuries ago, the founding fathers of the United States spurred in Constitutional debate, prompting a great New Yorker, Mr. Alexander Hamilton to criticize "the insufficiency of the present Confederation to preserve the Union." He argued in "The Federalist Papers" that the Articles of Confederation failed to address issues such as a checks-and-balances system of the government, separation of powers among agencies, fair representation of the states, and safeguarding freedom of the people. He concluded that the very design of the Articles of Confederation was insufficient to meet the needs of the American people.

As a result of extensive discussions and debates by America's founding fathers, the Constitution of the United States of America was created and has been honored to this day. The U.S. Constitution became the pulse of American society, and allowed for amendments, including Bill of Rights, to be incorporated, thereby guaranteeing freedom and laying a strong foundation for sustainable development of the American democracy.

Taiwan now faces a similar "insufficiency" of the constitutional framework. As my country's leader, it is imperative that I shoulder responsibility for Taiwan's national development and set a clear vision for the future. I believe that a sound and sustainable constitutional framework can be created through rational debate and engendered by civic consciousness. This is the rationale upon which I have proposed the concept of "hastening the birth of a new constitution for Taiwan."

The "hastening of a new Taiwan constitution" will determine whether or not our democracy can come into full bloom. This, strengthened and supplemented by the institutions of direct democracy, such as referendums, would be a necessary step in advancing Taiwan's human rights and the deepening of its democracy. One must not be misled by the contention that holding referendums or re-engineering our constitutional framework, bears any relevance to the "Four No's plus one" pledge presented in my inaugural speech. Neither should matters concerning Taiwan's constitutional development be simplistically interpreted as a political debate of "unification versus independence." I stand before you today, appealing to the collective conscience of the world community, asking that the voice of Taiwan be heard, for ours is the voice of democracy and progress. It is my job as President, to safeguard the security, democracy, freedom and human rights of the 23 million people of Taiwan, and, in so doing, build a solid foundation for the sustainable progress of Taiwan's continuing democratization.

The progression of democracy and human rights in Taiwan not only signifies a triumph of our people in the relentless pursuit for freedom, it is also a torch of democracy for all Chinese societies and has become an indispensable asset to the United States as well as the international society. I have great confidence that by advancing our democracy, we shall show where Taiwan stands in terms of values: a veritable part of the world's democratic community.

While furthering human rights in Taiwan, I call for a joint effort among Asian governments and regional NGOs for a regional

framework for the advancement of human rights, including a state-sponsored regional charter, a regional commission, and a regional court of human rights. The newly founded Taiwan Foundation for Democracy can serve as one of the channels through which we shall endeavor to make our rightful contributions and share out experience in the protection and promotion of human rights. I want Taiwan to be a positive contributing force in the international human rights movement.

On the Green Island, situated off the south-east coast of Taiwan, there used to be a concentration camp and prison for the confinement and deprivation of countless human rights defenders. On this island, the Taiwanese equivalent to the infamous Robin Island of South Africa, there stands a monument on which names of victims of human rights abuse are inscribed. The epitaph reads: "In those times, how mothers wept through long nights for their imprisoned children."

I have kept that epitaph in my heart, and tonight, I would like to share it with you as a tribute to all who support, advocate, and have stood up in the name of human rights: Let there be no more fear, let there be no more tears. Let the world take Taiwan as an example. She is emerging from her democratic metamorphosis.

Thank you.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JONATHAN ROBERT BROUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 402, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Jonathan Robert Brouse as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

HONORING DR. PAUL F. HOM

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the late Dr. Paul F. Hom, a man who made numerous invaluable contributions to the Sacramento Community. Due to strong public support, the Sacramento County Health and Human Services will memorialize Dr. Hom's important service to the community by naming the new County Primary Care Building after him. As his friends, family, and admirers gather to pay tribute to Dr. Hom's remarkable life

and celebrate the opening of the Paul Hom Primary Care Building, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting this great humanitarian.

To say that Dr. Hom was a man of great intellect would only begin to skim the surface of his scholarly prowess. Dr. Hom graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in History. In 1966, Dr. Hom completed his law degree from Hastings College of Law, University of California. During his brief, yet meaningful legal career, Dr. Hom exhibited his trademark commitment to social justice by serving as a VISTA volunteer in Texas and Mississippi in 1966 and 1967. In 1969, Dr. Hom volunteered for Attorney-Neighborhood Legal Services in Compton, California. Driven by a realization that the poor cared more about medical issues than voting and civil rights, Dr. Hom enrolled in medical school and earned his medical degree from the University of California, Davis in 1973. In 1978, Dr. Hom received a degree in Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Hom's impressive academic achievements are a testament to his intelligence and work ethic.

During his second year in medical school, Dr. Hom and Dr. Garrett Lee held a series of meetings with a group of concerned undergraduate students to discuss improving health care for Sacramento's elderly Asian residents. The students concluded that many of the elderly Asians as well as the newly arrived immigrant families were having difficulty in obtaining adequate health care due to socioeconomic and language barriers and decided to start a free clinic to target this problem.

In 1972, the Asian Clinic was established to become an elective course for medical and undergraduate students. Since 1972, the Asian Clinic continues to serve the Asian community in downtown Sacramento every Saturday. Today, the posthumously named Paul Hom Asian Clinic is the oldest existing Asian clinic in the United States and a vivid reminder of the positive vision and powerful legacy of Dr. Hom.

The many functions of the Paul F. Hom Primary Care Center will serve as the proper embodiment of the vision of its namesake. The Center, designed to handle 100 patient-visits a day for primary care and 150 walk-ins, provides a full range of services including a Chest clinic, Pharmacy, Public Health Laboratory, Radiology Department, Healthcare for the Homeless program and Refugee Health Clinic. It also serves the medically indigent of Sacramento County who are in need of medical assistance and ultimately improves access to care for residents of Sacramento County. All in all, the Paul F. Hom Primary Care Center will enhance the access to quality and effective health care for people without health care. In addition, the center will also enable health administrators to carry out their important responsibilities in a more efficient method.

Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Hom's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate the opening of the Paul Hom Primary Care Building, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most giving and cherished citizens. Dr. Hom's legacy is a true testament to community service. If a template for leadership could be made, it would surely bear the resemblance of Dr. Paul Hom. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy of compassion and care for the disadvantaged will continue to live on. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me

in thanking Dr. Paul F. Hom for his numerous contributions to the Sacramento community.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING GREG MCCLEERY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Greg McCleery has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Greg McCleery has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Greg McCleery has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Greg McCleery must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 402, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Greg McCleery as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

NEW YORK'S FINEST: THE MEN OF THE 75TH PRECINCT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Edward Vasquez, Dino Anselmo and Brian Latimore; detectives of the 75th Precinct in Brooklyn, for their recent heroic efforts.

While we are rightly reminded about the heroism of police officers, and other first responders after 9/11, police officers risk their lives to save others' lives every day of the year. As an example of one such heroic effort, I am submitting for the RECORD an article published on November 3, 2003, in the N.Y. Daily News about how three Brooklyn detectives who saved the life of a young girl trapped inside a burning building. For their efforts, all of us from New York City, especially those from Brooklyn, are proud and grateful.

[From the New York Daily News]

HERO OF THE MONTH: COPS DONNED FIRE HATS

(By Patrice O'Shaughnessy)

(Hero of the Month spotlights those men and women, civil servants and civilians, who go beyond the call of duty to make New York a better place.)

Edward Vasquez, Dino Anselmo and Brian Latimore are three longtime detectives in East New York, Brooklyn, used to confronting gunmen and tracking down murder suspects. Racing into a smoke-filled building recently to evacuate tenants proved to be equally tense.

"It's just a reaction," Latimore said. "You see a guy with a gun, you don't think about it while you're doing it. You just think about getting another gun off the street. We saw the smoke; we all knew we were going to go."

The result brought the same satisfaction. "Everybody got out safe; that's what it's all about," Latimore said.

For disregarding their own safety and rescuing a 4-year-old girl and several adults from a fire, the three are the Daily News Heroes of the Month.

"They could have just stood outside and called 911," said Mariano Alvarado, whose daughter, Taija, was carried out by the cops. "They cared about getting people out. They ran in themselves."

The detectives, all of whom have young daughters, were driving on Pitkin Ave. on their way to the 75th Precinct station at 9:45 a.m. on Sept. 23, after searching for a robbery suspect, when Anselmo spotted smoke.

Latimore turned their car down Ashford St., and they saw smoke pouring out from the top of a three-story building.

It was raining hard. "Not a soul was on the block," Vasquez said.

The building was run-down—the windows of the top floor boarded up, tenants on the second floor, squatters living on the first.

"I was pretty sure it was occupied, because I saw a Big Wheels on the second-floor fire escape," Vasquez said. "We got out of the car and ran right in."

They started banging on doors on the first floor. The smoke was coming down the stairs and filling the hallway, which was dimly lit to start with.

"The landing was all black smoke," Anselmo said. "Brian went to the car to get a flashlight. . . . I found three adults in the rear apartment on the first floor. We asked if anyone was upstairs, and they said a family and a little baby."

Vasquez went up. "I was holding onto the wall going up stairs. The plywood was hot. . . . I was afraid the stairs would fall."

He kicked an apartment door open and saw Alvarado waking up in an apartment full of smoke. Alvarado said he had not smelled any fire. "I heard someone trying to kick in the door. . . . My daughter was watching TV in the bedroom, my wife and baby daughter were at the hospital and a detective was in my kitchen," he said.

"He grabbed my daughter and another cop grabbed me. It was pretty smoky in the stairs," Vasquez put his jacket over Taija and Anselmo hustled Alvarado out. "I could hear crackling and crashing, and I started coughing, and then I saw a little beam of light," Anselmo said. "Brian got us out."

Taija was taken to a hospital and treated for smoke inhalation. Anselmo was given oxygen, then he and Vasquez went to the 102nd Precinct in Queens to interview some gun suspects. Latimore went back to the squad room and finished his shift.

"You reacted, did what you had to do and got back to work," Anselmo said. "Later, as people started to ask us about it, it felt good."

Alvarado and his family are in temporary housing; his youngest child has high levels of lead from substandard housing and requires medical treatment. "I don't know where we will go next," Alvarado said. They cannot return to 344 Ashford St. because the utilities have been shut off—the building was declared dangerous to live in—and the apartment has been looted of pipes and a new radiator, Alvarado said.

The three detectives were recognized by the police Honor Legion. Vasquez said his 10-year-old daughter, Rachel, was so excited that she kept trying on different dresses to wear to the dinner. "A lot of guys have done a lot of good things here," Vasquez said. "You feel great after the fact. And my family was very proud."